

January 23, 1958

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Y made 2/13/58

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Robert Cutler  
Special Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Preparation of estimates of the relative  
position of the USA and USSR

REFERENCE : NSC Action No. 1833

With reference to Mr. James Lay's letter of 24 December 1957, in the above matter, I have conferred with General Twining and with Dr. Killian and have left with each a draft memorandum for their consideration to carry out the NSC action. A copy of this draft is attached hereto. As soon as I have received their comments and suggestions I will be in touch with you. I should also appreciate any comments you may have.

/s/

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Enc.

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DRAFT

17 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, NSC

REFERENCE : NSC Action 1633 b.

On 23 December 1957, the Director of Central Intelligence during an intelligence briefing to the NSC suggested that procedures be adopted for preparing from time to time, as directed by the President, net estimates of the relative position of the USA and the Soviet Union in areas of vital concern to our national security. Subsequently the President approved NSC action 1633 b approving the above proposal in principle and requesting recommendations for carrying it out, having in mind that access to any such estimates should be kept to the absolute minimum deemed necessary. NSC action 1633 b also provided that the Director of Central Intelligence should consult with respect to the foregoing proposal with the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chairman, President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities.

As directed in the above NSC action, the Director has conferred with General Twining and Dr. Killian and they join in submitting the following recommendations:

I. Supervisory Organization

A supervisory organization should be established for the purpose of recommending to the President the particular net estimates which should be undertaken, the priority of particular studies and

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the membership of the special ad hoc committees which should prepare each estimate.

The permanent members of such advisory organization should include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director of Central Intelligence, the President's Advisor for National Security Affairs, and the Special Assistant to the President on Science and Technology.

2. Operating Organization

The permanent members should co-opt as consulting members, as necessary, the heads of the particular departments or agencies, or their designated representatives, who might be concerned with the subject matter of any proposed estimate.

For each net estimate a special task force should be constituted by the supervisory organization. This task force should be composed of the permanent members and the members of departments and agencies concerned. Such task force should determine its own chairman and should provide the necessary operating and technical support.

3. Subjects to be Evaluated

Comparative estimates should be limited to major weapon systems or other problems of extraordinary importance to the national security.

A. Military programs might, for example, include intercontinental and intermediate range ballistic missiles, submarine launched missiles, long and medium range manned bombers, aircraft control and radar

warning systems; relative military aid programs to countries and areas where such USA and Soviet aid may be extended.

B. Non-military items might well include comparative programs of economic development assistance (including commercial investments and trade) to underdeveloped countries, comparative numbers and levels of training of professional, scientific and technically-trained personnel, programs designed to subvert or take over by means short of war of any non-Communist areas of the world as contrasted with assets and capabilities of the USA and its allies to combat such Communist take-over.

#### 4. Special Security Precautions

In view of the great sensitivity of the combination of material to be included in such comparative estimates, special stringent security precautions should be taken under regulations to be prescribed by the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Dissemination of the finished product should be as directed by the President.

ALLEN W. DILLON  
Director